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CHOWAN HERALD

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Regional jail to study adding Chowan inmates

Goodwin: Current jail has 23 beds, averages 31 men a day

BY SARAH HODGES STALLS
Enterprise & Weekly Herald

WINDSOR — Chowan officials have agreed to pursue a joint study to determine whether the county should join Bertie and Martin counties in a shared jail facility. Chowan commissioners discussed the possibility of a shared

jail facility during a meeting Thursday with Bertie and Martin commissioners and the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail Board. "Our goal tonight is to get more insight into Chowan County's current situation with its jail and its desire to join the Bertie-Martin jail partnership," Dempsey Bond, chairman of the Bertie-Martin jail board and a Martin commissioner, explained. Opened in 1979, the Chowan County Jail is in Edenton and op-

erates as a division of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office, providing housing for prisoners from both Chowan and Gates counties. The jail currently employs eight full-time staff members, two part-time staffers and one administrator. Chowan officials say the county's jail's capacity has reached a point where action will be needed soon.

According to Chowan Sheriff

See JAIL, 3A



SARAH HODGES STALLS/ENTERPRISE & WEEKLY HERALD
Martin County Commissioners Ronnie Smith (left) and Dempsey Bond were part of last week's meeting with commissioners from Bertie and Chowan counties.

JUMPING FOR SCIENCE



Zion Preudhomme (center), a White Oak kindergartner, jumps as he attempts to launch his homemade rocket Thursday during Duke Energy Science Night at the school. Looking on is Madison Wilson and Charlie Milligan, along with PreK teacher Julie Privott and Miller Bryant.

PHOTO COURTESY KIM ULLOM

Kirby seeks consistent solar farm rules

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

Chowan County Commissioner Bob Kirby said he seeks changes to the county's Solar Zoning Ordinance to make it consistent with the Land Use Plan requirements.

During a recent commission meeting, Kirby presented commissioners with a written piece entitled, "Solar Development in Chowan County." Monday, commissioners agreed to discuss these changes later this month before sending any suggested amendments to the county's Planning Board for review.

The Chowan County and Town of Edenton Joint Land Use Plan was adopted over six months ago, and was certified by the NC Coastal Resources Commission



KIRBY

over four months ago. Kirby said the Chowan County Zoning Ordinance needs to be revised to keep it aligned with the Land Use Plan. Kirby said many of the figures and setback distances in his proposal are based on his best judgment and can be adjusted to meet the board's consensus.

Kirby shared this thought about the solar issue.

"While working this issue, I had both sides of the many issues in mind," he said. "NC Representative Ed Goodwin's comments from our meeting about his mom's property and how it really doesn't bring in a lot of revenue now that none of his relatives are farming it, and

INSIDE

Another SunEnergy1 facility moves forward — 4A

how solar has the potential for her to maximize income really strikes at home for many of my constituents in the north end of the county and needs to be balanced against the potential negatives of solar."

Based on the recent spate of solar farm proposals, Kirby said he is concerned, so he is suggesting these changes to the ordinance:

1. Name change — "Solar Energy Facility" instead of "Solar Farm." This would be more consistent with nearby counties.

2. Insert a section that outlines the purpose and objectives up front and spe-

cific note the desire to create developments that are consistent with the Land Use Plan.

3. Setbacks. Suggest adding the following (to better preserve the viewshed of historic and scenic areas):

a. A 500-foot setback from the major waterways (Chowan and Yeopim rivers, Edenton Bay and Albemarle Sound). This would be an attempt to preserve the viewshed for folks who enjoy boating, fishing and other watersports.

b. A 1,500-foot setback from the county's NC Scenic Byway — the Edenton-Windsor Loop — that runs west of town, along US 17 toward the River Bridge. For quick reference, 1,500 feet is just over 1/4 mile.

c. A 1,500-foot setback

See KIRBY, 4A

'Where He leads me I will go'

Turner to start May 1 as Perquimans superintendent

BY PETER WILLIAMS AND MILES LAYTON
Adams Publishing Group

HERTFORD — The Perquimans County Schools Board of Education named Tanya Turner as their new superintendent Monday night.

Turner, 49, currently is the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction with Edenton-Chowan Schools.

She is a Perquimans County native, a product of the Perquimans County Schools system and still lives in Perquimans County. In the end, Turner didn't need to visit Oz to know that there is no place like home.

"Perquimans has always remained my home," Turner said. "I wanted nothing more than to return to Perquimans County to teach and coach when I graduated from Methodist Univer-



TURNER

sity. I was blessed with that opportunity for 10 years before being led to a leadership position in Edenton-Chowan Schools. I have now been with the Edenton-Chowan School System for 17 years. I think returning home completes me."

An alumnus of Perquimans County High School, Turner is pleased to have the opportunity to serve the community.

"My education began in Perquimans and prepared me well for my future," she said. "Having the opportunity to give back to the community that has given my son and I so much is humbling and an extreme honor. I want nothing more than to work together with the school system and community to make a posi-

See TURNER, 2A

CAC to open Water St. facility

From Staff Reports

The Chowan Arts Council wants the public to help celebrate its move to Water Street.

The opening reception and ribbon-cutting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at the old Chero's Building, 112 W. Water St., Edenton. CAC President Regan Coxe said the event will feature music by Stan-

ley Polanski and libations and good eats.

During the month of the CAC's closure, volunteers were busy moving artwork and renovating the new location.

Despite being in the middle of a move, the CAC stayed busy as it recently brought Timmy and Susanna Abell to White Oak

See CAC, 3A

SWEEP CHOWAN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin (left) and Deputy Antwan Rascoe stand at a "Littering is illegal" sign at the intersection of Yeopim Road and NC 32/Poplar Neck Road. The state recently installed six such signs. Goodwin urged residents to help keep the county clean. To report someone littering, call the Sheriff's Office at 252-482-4444. Sweep Chowan, a campaign to pick up roadside litter, is being held through April 30. For information on the program, contact the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce at 252-482-3400.

Cycle NC seeks volunteers for registration, rest stops

Safety, courtesy urged while sharing road with visitors

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
Editor

Planning for this month's upcoming Cycle NC is kicking into high gear.

During a recent meeting, the schedule and routes were confirmed for the April 26-28 event.

Volunteers are still need-



PHOTO COURTESY KIP SHAW

Bicyclists make their way through Edenton during Cycle NC's last stop in Edenton.

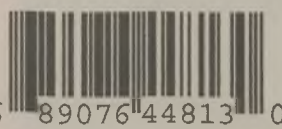
See CYCLE, 2A



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